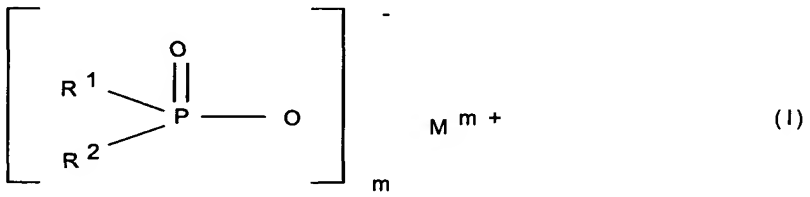
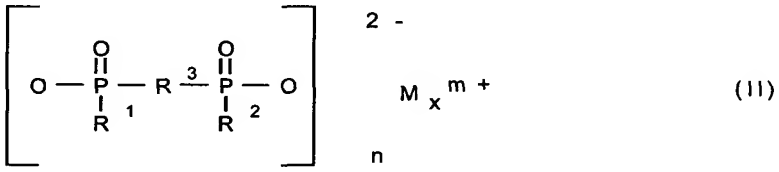
Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A surface-modified phosphinic salt ~~of the~~ selected from the group consisting formula (I) ~~and/or~~ a surface-modified diphosphinic salt of the formula (II), mixtures of formula (I) and formula (II) ~~and/or~~ polymers of ~~these~~formula (I), polymers of formula (II) and mixtures of polymers of formula (I) and (II) ,



(I)



(II)

where

R^1 and R^2 are identical or different and are C_1-C_6-alkyl, linear or branched, ~~and/~~or aryl;

R^3 is C_1-C_{10}-alkylene, linear or branched, C_6-C_{10}-arylene, -alkylarylene, or -arylalkylene;

M is Mg, Ca, Al, Sb, Sn, Ge, Ti, Zn, Fe, Zr, Ce, Bi, Sr, Mn, Li, Na, K, ~~and/~~or a protonated nitrogen base;

m is from 1 to 4;

n is from 1 to 4;

x is from 1 to 4,

wherein the phosphinic salt and/or diphosphinic salt, or their polymers, have been encapsulated with a surface layer composed of a synthetic resin or a wax.

2. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^2 are identical or different and are C_1-C_6-alkyl, linear or branched, and~~/or~~ phenyl.

3. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in claim 1~~ or 2~~, wherein R^1 and R^2 are identical or different and are methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl and~~/or~~ phenyl.

4. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, wherein R^3 is methylene, ethylene, n-propylene, isopropylene, n-butylene, tert-butylene, n-pentylene, n-octylene or n-dodecylene.

5. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, wherein R^3 is phenylene or naphthylene.

6. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, wherein R^3 is methylphenylene, ethylphenylene, tert-butylphenylene, methylnaphthylene, ethylnaphthylene, or tert-butylnaphthylene.

7. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, wherein R^3 is phenylmethylene, phenylethylene, phenylpropylene, or phenylbutylene.

8 (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, wherein M is calcium, aluminum, or zinc.

9. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1, wherein the synthetic resin comprises a curable resin.

10. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in claim 9, wherein the curable resin ~~comprises~~ is an epoxy resin, a phenolic resin, or a melamine resin.

11. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in claim 9, wherein the ~~amounts added~~amount of the synthetic resin ~~are~~ is from 0.1 to 20% by weight, based on the phosphinic salt.

12. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in claim 9, wherein the ~~amounts added~~amount of the synthetic resin ~~are~~ is from 0.5 to 10% by weight, ~~preferably from 1 to 5% by weight,~~ based on the phosphinic salt.

13. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1, wherein the ~~waxes comprise~~wax is selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbon waxes, ester waxes, oxidized polyolefin waxes, oxidized hydrocarbon waxes, amide waxes, wax acids, wax soaps and~~/or~~ a combination of these components.

14. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1, wherein the ~~waxes are~~ wax is used in ~~the~~ a form selected from the group consisting of powder, micropowder, dispersion in water, dispersion in solvent, ~~or~~ and in the form of dispersions in water/solvent mixtures.

15. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1, wherein the ~~amounts~~ amount added of the ~~waxes are~~wax is from 0.5 to 10% by weight, ~~preferably from 1 to 5% by weight,~~ based on the phosphinic salt.

16. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 15~~claim 1, wherein ~~amounts of from 0.1 to 5% by weight, preferably from 0.1 to 1% by weight, based on the phosphinic salt, of~~ a water-emulsifiable organic liquid acting as phlegmatizer ~~are~~ is added in an amount of from 0.1 to 5% by weight, based on the phosphinic salt.

17. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 16~~claim 16, wherein the water-emulsifiable organic liquid ~~comprises~~ is selected from the group consisting of polyglycols, phthalates, ~~or~~ and aromatic phosphoric esters.

18. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 17~~claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising at least one of the compound selected from the group consisting of melamine phosphate, dimelamine phosphate, melamine pyrophosphate, melamine polyphosphates, melam polyphosphates, melem polyphosphates and~~/or~~ melon polyphosphates ~~are also present~~.

19. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more claims 1 to 18~~claim 1~~, wherein~~further comprising at least one melamine condensation ~~products, such as~~product selected from the group consisting of melam, melem, and~~/or~~ melon, ~~are also present~~.

20. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 19~~claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of oligomeric esters of tris(hydroxyethyl) isocyanurate with aromatic polycarboxylic acids, benzoguanamine, tris(hydroxyethyl) isocyanurate, allantoin, glycoluril, melamine, melamine cyanurate, dicyandiamide, and~~/or guanidine are also present~~.

21. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 20~~claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising a nitrogen-containing phosphates of the formulae $(NH_4)_yH_{3-y}PO_4$ ~~and, respectively,~~or $(NH_4PO_3)_z$, ~~are present~~, where y is from 1 to 3 and z is from 1 to 10 000.

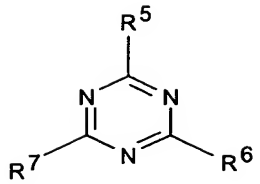
22. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 21~~claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising a synthetic inorganic compound ~~and/or~~ a mineral product or both ~~is present~~.

23. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed ~~in one or more of claims 1 to 22~~claim 22, wherein the synthetic inorganic compound ~~and/~~or the mineral product ~~m~~ ~~comprises~~is selected from the group consisting of an oxygen compound of silicon, magnesium compounds, metal carbonates of metals of the second main group of the periodic table, red phosphorus, ~~or~~ comprises zinc compounds ~~or~~ and aluminum compounds.

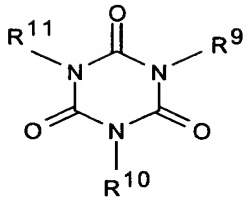
24. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 23~~claim 23, wherein the oxygen compounds of silicon ~~comprise~~ are selected from the group consisting of salts and esters of orthosilicic acid and condensation products thereof, ~~or comprise~~ silicates, zeolites, ~~and~~ silicas, ~~or comprise~~ glass powder, glass/ceramic powder, ~~or~~ ceramic powder; wherein the magnesium compounds ~~comprise~~ are selected from the group consisting of magnesium hydroxide, hydrotalcites, magnesium carbonates ~~or~~ and magnesium calcium carbonates; wherein the zinc compounds ~~comprise~~ are selected from the group consisting of zinc oxide, zinc stannate, zinc hydroxystannate, zinc phosphate, zinc borate, ~~or~~ and zinc sulfides; and wherein the aluminum compounds ~~comprise~~ are selected from the group consisting of aluminum hydroxide ~~or~~ and aluminum phosphate.

25. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 24, wherein~~ claim 1, further comprising at least one nitrogen ~~compounds~~ compound~~are present as a further component~~.

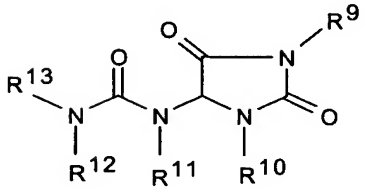
26. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 25~~claim 25, wherein the nitrogen compounds ~~comprise those of~~ are selected from the formulae (III) to (VIII) ~~or~~ and mixtures thereof



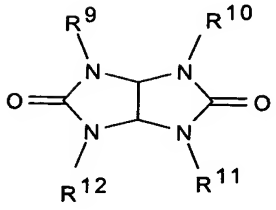
(III)



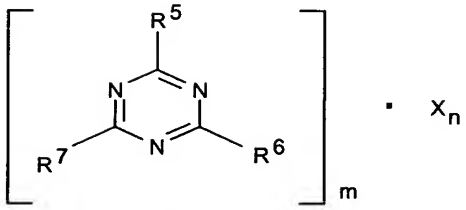
(IV)



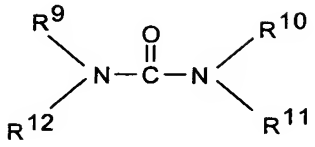
(V)

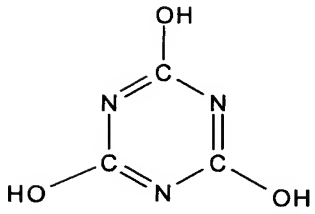


(VI)



(VII)





(VIII)

where

R^5 to R^7 are hydrogen, C_1-C_8-alkyl, or C_5-C_{16}-cycloalkyl or -alkylcycloalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with a hydroxy function or with a C_1-C_4-hydroxyalkyl function, ~~or are~~ C_2-C_8-alkenyl, C_1-C_8-alkoxy, -acyl, or -acyloxy, ~~or~~ C_6-C_{12}-aryl or -arylalkyl, ~~or~~ -OR^8 , ~~or~~ -$N(R^8)R^9$, ~~or else~~ N-alicyclic systems or N-aromatic systems,

R^8 is hydrogen, C_1-C_8-alkyl, C_5-C_{16}-cycloalkyl or -alkylcycloalkyl, unsubstituted or substituted with a hydroxy function or with a C_1-C_4-hydroxyalkyl function, ~~or is~~ C_2-C_8-alkenyl, C_1-C_8-alkoxy, -acyl, or –acyloxy, or C_6-C_{12}-aryl or -arylalkyl,

R^9 to R^{13} are the groups of R^8, or ~~else~~ -O-R^8,

m and n, independently of one another, are 1, 2, 3, or 4,

X is ~~acids~~ and acid which can form adducts with triazine compounds (III).

27. (Currently Amended) The compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 26~~claim 1, ~~wherein carbodiimides are also present~~further comprising at least one carbodiimide.

28. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing compounds as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 27, which comprises~~claim 1 comprising the steps of adjusting the pH of an aqueous suspension of a phosphinate to between 4 and 9, then adding an aqueous emulsion of a wax or of a synthetic resin, or a solution of the wax or synthetic resin in a water-miscible solvent, stirring for from 0.5 to 3 hours at a temperature of from 40 to 80°C,wherein 0.1% to 20% wax or synthetic resin are applied to 80 to 99.9 parts by weight of phosphinate~~, and then, where appropriate, adding an aqueous emulsion of an organic liquid, and stirring for from 0.5 to 3 hours at a temperature of from 20 to 90°C, in such a way that from 0.1-20% of wax and, respectively, synthetic resin and, where appropriate, from 0.1 to 5% of phlegmatizer are applied to 80-99.9 parts by weight of phosphinate~~.

29. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant plastics molding composition comprising a compound as claimed ~~in one or more of claims 1 to 27~~claim 1.

30. (Currently Amended) The flame-retardant plastics molding composition as claimed in claim 29, further comprising at least one thermoplastic polymer, wherein the thermoplastic ~~polymers comprise~~polymer is selected from the group consisting of HI (high-impact) polystyrene, polyphenylene ethers, polyamides, polyesters, polycarbonates, ~~or~~ and blends or polyblends of the type represented by ABS (acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene), or PC/ABS (polycarbonate/acrylonitrile-butadiene).

31. (Currently Amended) The flame-retardant plastics molding composition as ~~claimed in claim 29 or~~ claimed in claim 30, wherein the at least thermoplastic

polymer ~~comprises~~ is selected from the group consisting of polyamides, ~~and/or~~ polyester and mixtures thereof.

32. (Currently Amended) The flame-retardant plastics molding composition as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 29 to 31, wherein, independently of one another,~~ claim 29, further comprising a nitrogen compound and wherein the surface-modified phosphinic salt is used at a concentration of from 1 to 30% by weight, and the nitrogen compound is used at a concentration of from 0.1 to 10% by weight, based in each case on the plastics molding composition.

33. (Currently Amended) A thermoplastic article ~~polymer molding, a thermoplasic polymer film, a thermoplastic polymer filament, or a thermoplastic polymer fiber,~~ comprising a compound as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 27~~claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic article is selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic polymer film, a thermoplastic polymer filament or a thermoplastic polymer fiber.

34. (Currently Amended) ~~A polymer molding, a polymer film, a polymer filament, or a polymer fiber,~~The thermoplastic article as claimed in claim 33, wherein the thermoplastic polymer ~~comprises~~ is selected from the group consisting of HI (high-impact) polystyrene, polyphenylene ethers, polyamides, polyesters, polycarbonates, or blends or polyblends of the type represented by ABS (acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene), or PC/ABS (polycarbonate/acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene), polyamide, polyester, and~~/or~~ ABS.

35. (Currently Amended) The thermoplastic article ~~polymer molding, polymer film, polymer filament, or polymer fiber~~ as claimed in claim 33 ~~or 34, which comprises~~, comprising:

from 1 to 30% by weight of a compound of ~~claims 1 to 27~~claim 1

from 1 to 99% by weight of a thermoplastic polymer, or a mixture of ~~these~~ thermoplastic polymers,

from 0 to 5% by weight of additives, and

from 0 to 50% by weight of filler.

36. (Currently Amended) The ~~polymer molding, polymer film, polymer filament, or polymer fiber as claimed in one or more of claims 33 to 35, which comprises~~thermoplastic article as claimed in claim 33, comprising:
from 5 to 20% by weight of a compound of ~~claims 1 to 27~~claim 1
from 48 to 95% by weight of a thermoplastic polymer, or a mixture of ~~these~~ thermoplastic polymers
from 0 to 2% by weight of additives, and
from 0 to 30% by weight of filler.

37. (New) The compound as claimed in claim 9, wherein the amount of the synthetic resin is from 1 to 5% by weight, based in the phosphinic salt.

38. (New) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amount added of the wax is from 1 to 5%, by weight, based on the phosphinic salt.

39. (New) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein a water-emulsifiable organic liquid acting as a phlegmatizer is added in an amount of from 0.1 to 1% by weight, based on the phosphinic salt.

40. (New) The process of claim 28, further comprising the steps of adding an aqueous emulsion of an organic liquid, stirring for from 0.5 to 3 hours at a temperature of from 20 to 90°C.

41. (New) The process of claim 28 further comprising the step of adding from 0.1 to 5% by weight of phlegmatizer.